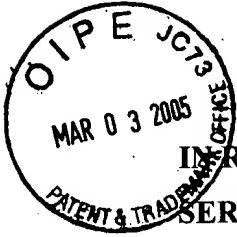


2633  
JW**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF:**

KELLY, Colin

**SERIAL NO:** 09/990,384**ART UNIT:** 2633**FILING DATE:** 23 November 2001**EXAMINER:** KIM, DAVIS

**TITLE:** AVOIDING AMPLIFIED SPONTANEOUS EMISSION LOOPS IN  
OPTICAL NETWORKS

**COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS****WASHINGTON, D.C., 20231, U.S.A.**

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on 03 December 2004. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed report and request that this application be amended in the following manner.

**In the claims:**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 12 have been amended.

Claims 5-8 and 13-20 have been canceled.

**In the drawings:**

Figures 1 and 2 have been labeled as "PRIOR ART".

Figure 8 has been replaced with the correct one, showing the interleaver 34.

Accordingly, replacement drawings sheets 1 to 3 are enclosed herewith.